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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

28 September 1955

SUBJECT: USAF Special Aircraft Procurement Conference, 26 September 55.

1. The following individuals were present:

Mr. Richard E. Horner, Deputy Assistant Secretary, USAF,
Requirements

General Albert Boyd, ARDC

Lt. Colonel Joseph Pellegrini, ARDC

Major General Thomas Gerrity, DCSM, Headquarters, USAF

Colonel Gerald Keeling, DCSM, Headquarters, USAF

Major General Bergquist, DCSO, Headquarters, USAF

Colonel Russell Berg, DCSO, Headquarters, USAF

Colonel A. Culbertson, DCSD, Headquarters, USAF

Colonel O. J. Ritland, Project Headquarters

General Putt and Mr. Gardner were unable to attend the conference, therefore, General Boyd acted as chairman for the group.

2. The first order of business was to determine the number and types of the special aircraft to be procured under the Air Force program. After considerable discussion of the various configurations it was unanimously decided that the following numbers and versions would be procured.

		25X1
Research and Development Test vehicles	3	
Air Defense prototype	3	
Reconnaissance	20	
Total		

25X1

25X1

Although several approaches as to the effect on the Air Force Reconnaissance program of the twenty new reconnaissance versions were discussed, it was decided to hold in abeyance any decision of allocation. It was indicated, however, that the twenty aircraft could be used to replace the B-57-D's in the Black Knight program or could be assigned to the Far Eastern and European Commands in equal numbers to be utilized for tactical reconnaissance in those theaters. The latter eliminates a tentative program to convert F-104's or F-101's into reconnaissance types to fulfill Air Force requirements.

USAF review(s) completed.

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3. In general the configuration of all aircraft except the air defense version will be identical to ours. However, as the project develops I feel certain that some modifications will be made to the landing gear and the equipment bay. The air defense version in its present configuration is low in performance and the Air Force desires that Lockheed attempt to increase the high speed to approximately .9 mach at 50,000 feet. To be useable as an Air Force interceptor in large numbers, this performance is absolutely necessary.

4. I presented the requirement that CIA is desirous of eventually procuring four two-seater trainer versions of the air defense aircraft. Considering these additional four aircraft the total additional procurement for both CIA and the Air Force would equal thirty-six more aircraft. It was decided that Colonel Keeling will request Lockheed to submit proposals covering the above thirty-six aircraft. The proposal will be broken down into a firm quotation on [redacted] aircraft for the Air Force with an option to add four trainer versions for CIA, for a cumulative total of [redacted] aircraft.

25X1

5. The next subject discussed was the effect of this procurement program on other Air Force development projects in the reconnaissance and research field. Although no decisions were definitely made, it was indicated that the X-16 program would be reoriented to obtain increased performance. Such a reorientation would in fact be a delaying action and ARDC indicated that they may possibly use this vehicle as a prototype for the liquid hydrogen burning aircraft. Since the twenty aircraft being procured under the Black Knight program are well advanced, no financial gain can be obtained by cancelling this program now, therefore, there is every indication that the Black Knight B-57-D program will continue as is. A short discussion of the balloon project and its affect on the aircraft reconnaissance vehicles materialized in no decision. We felt that the balloon program decision should be made at a higher level.

25X1

6. [redacted]

[redacted] The projecting of the Air Force program will probably be through a joint project office located at Wright Field. Two individuals, one from ARDC and one from AMC, will monitor the entire USAF program. It will be necessary to brief the Weapons Systems Commanders at both ARDC and AMC. In order to obtain the maximum benefits from our program and the Air Force program, these people should be fully knowledgeable of our project. No action will be taken on the

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administrative set-up within the Air Force until approval has been obtained from CIA.

7. All personnel participating in this conference were in complete agreement and there was no dissension among them. They were fully aware of the security precautions necessary and will abide by all rules and regulations established by CIA. The recommendations of this committee will be presented to Mr. Gardner and General Putt for final approval. However, since the decisions were so unanimous, I do not feel that any changes will be made in the proposed procurement program by either of these two officials.

/S/
O. J. RITLAND
Colonel, USAF
Deputy Project Director

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